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3   **CLAIMS:**
       What is claimed is:

30   1.   A method for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the
       method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
              receiving a request for a function, wherein the request comprises an input
       specifying a first server name and an input specifying a second server name, wherein
       the server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first
35   server name; and
              executing the function on the server as directed by the input specifying the
       first server name, wherein the function dynamically modifies a membership of the
       second server name in the set of server names.

40   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the membership of the second server name in
       the set of server names is dynamically added to the set of server names by registering
       the second server name for the server.

45   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the membership of the second server name in
       the set of server names is dynamically removed from the set of server names by
       deregistering the second server name for the server.

50   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the function dynamically modifies the set of
       server names without halting or restarting the server.

55   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the request for the function is received from a
       network.

60   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the set of server names comprises a plurality
       of server names.

       7.   A method for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the
       method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
              receiving a first server name and a second server name, wherein the server

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responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server
2   name; and
        dynamically modifying a membership of the second server name in the set of
server names.

10 8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the set of server names is dynamically
modified without halting or restarting the server.

9.   A method for reconfiguring servers in a distributed data processing system,
15 the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
        dynamically modifying a first set of server names for a first server by adding a
first server name to the first set of server names, wherein the first server responds to
requests directed to the first set of server names;
        dynamically modifying a second set of server names for a second server by
20 adding a second server name to the second set of server names, wherein the second
server responds to requests directed to the second set of server names;
        determining that the first server requires reconfiguration; and
        dynamically modifying the first set of server names by adding the second
server name to the first set of server names.
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10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the first server is reconfigured in response to a
determination that the second server requires fail-over support by the first server.

30 11.   A method for reconfiguring servers in a distributed data processing system,
the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
        dynamically modifying a first set of server names for a first server by adding a
first server name to the first set of server names, wherein the first server responds to
requests directed to the first set of server names;
35   dynamically modifying the first set of server names by adding a second server
name to the first set of server names;
        determining that the first server requires reconfiguration;
        dynamically modifying the first set of server names by removing the second
server name from the first set of server names; and
40   dynamically modifying a second set of server names for a second server by
adding the second server name to the second set of server names, wherein the second
server responds to requests directed to the second set of server names.

12.   The method of claim 11 wherein the second server name is removed prior to

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connecting the second server to a network in the distributed data processing system.

13.   A data processing system comprising:

5   means for receiving a request for a function, wherein the request comprises an input specifying a first server name and an input specifying a second server name, wherein a server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server name; and

means for executing the function on the server as directed by the input

10   specifying the first server name, wherein the function dynamically modifies a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.

14.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the membership of the second

15   server name in the set of server names is dynamically added to the set of server names by registering the second server name for the server.

15.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the membership of the second

20   server name in the set of server names is dynamically removed from the set of server names by deregistering the second server name for the server.

16.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the function dynamically

25   modifies the set of server names without halting or restarting the server.

17.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the request for the function is received from a network.

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18.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the set of server names comprises a plurality of server names.

35   19.   A data processing system comprising:

means for receiving a first server name and a second server name, wherein a server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server name; and

means for dynamically modifying a membership of the second server name in

40   the set of server names.

20.   The data processing system of claim 19 wherein the set of server names is.

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dynamically modified without halting or restarting the server.

5 21.   A computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a first server name and a second server name, wherein a server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the
10 first server name; and

second instructions for dynamically modifying a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.

15 22.   The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the set of server names is dynamically modified without halting or restarting the server.